



REGIONAL NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MOUNTAIN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 4, 2014

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USDA TO CONDUCT SURVEY ON FARM LABOR

DENVER, COLORADO – Throughout April, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will conduct its biannual Farm Labor Survey. NASS will reach out to more than 1,000 of Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming producers to accurately measure hired labor on farms located in the NASS Mountain Region States.

"Farm labor is one of the most important aspects of farm businesses today," said Bill Meyer, Director of the NASS Regional Field Office. "By responding to this survey, farmers will provide accurate farm labor data that help ensure agriculture decision-makers have the accurate, timely information they need."

The Farm Labor Survey has a widespread impact. USDA and the Department of Labor will use the statistics obtained from farmers to help establish minimum wage rates for agricultural workers, administer farm labor recruitment and placement service programs, and assist legislators in determining labor policies.

The survey asks participants to provide information about farm labor on their operations, including total number of hired farm workers, hours worked, and wage rates paid for the weeks of January 11-17 and April 12-18. For their convenience, survey participants will have the option to respond by phone, online, or by mail.

"This is a great opportunity for all farmers who receive the survey to impact farm labor policies, both locally and on the national level, which is why I hope every farmer will take the opportunity and respond to this important survey," said Meyer.

NASS will compile, analyze and publish survey results in the *Farm Labor* report, to be released on May 21. All farm labor reports are available online at <http://www.nass.usda.gov>. For more information about the Farm Labor Survey, visit www.nass.usda.gov for state specific questions please contact:

Arizona – Dave DeWalt	1-800-645-7286
Colorado – Bill Meyer	1-800-392-3202
Montana – Eric Sommer	1-800-835-2612
New Mexico – Longino Bustillos	1-800-530-8810
Utah – John Hilton	1-800-747-8522
Wyoming – Rhonda Brandt	1-800-892-1660

NASS provides accurate, timely, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture. We invite you to provide occasional feedback on our products and services. Sign up at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/subscriptions> and look for "NASS Data User Community."

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